



Content:

1. Network news
 - 1.1. 2nd Annual REUFIS Meeting
 - 1.2. Regional Assessment Initiative
 - 1.3. Regional Expert Database (RED)
 2. Forest invasive species related projects
 - 2.1. LIFE ARTEMIS
 - 2.2. COST
 3. Recent events related to forest invasive species
 4. Recent publications of interest
- Annex - Regional Expert Database
(as of 1st November 2018)

1. Network news

1.1 2nd Annual REUFIS Meeting

The 2nd Annual meeting of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) was held in Ždanovičy, Belarus on 16-18 October 2018. The event focused on forest pathogens and the role of nurseries combating invasive forest species. The informative training sessions and the constructive network discussions led to a successful knowledge-sharing event. This would have been not possible without the substantive support from the Ministry of Forest of Belarus and its staff and from FAO Office for Europe and Central Asia.



The related information resources and delivered presentations of the meeting are available on the REUFIS website: <http://www.reufis.org/event/annual-reufis-meeting-invasive-pathogens-in-the-reufis-region-the-role-of-nurseries/>
Georgia kindly offered to host the 3rd Annual REUFIS Meeting and we are very much looking forward to start to work on the arrangements. More information will be shared with the network's members during 2019.

1.2 Regional Assessment Initiative

The preparatory steps towards a harmonized approach for a regional assessment on invasive species are on schedule. The Secretariat prepared the conceptual framework and identified the target objectives of the assessment. The 2nd REUFIS annual meeting provided the platform to present this initiative and this issue was discussed in details in working groups as well. The REUFIS member countries welcomed the initiative and approved the proposed approach. The Secretariat and the Executive Committee will continue the work and will finalize the template and initiate the information collection process. More details about the timeline of the assessment will be provided by the end of December 2018.

1.3 Regional Expert Database (RED)

The Secretariat received 24 registrations from experts from various countries of the REUFIS region. The Executive Committee reviewed the applications of all the registered experts and all were proved to be included in the REUFIS Regional Expert Database (RED). The recent developments on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area through the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) created some unexpected circumstances, which restricted the use and display of the contact information provided by the experts. The Secretariat proposed to distribute the contact details of the RED members as an Annex to the REUFIS e-newsletter instead of displaying these contact details on the REUFIS webpage. After careful consideration by the Executive Committee and the later the represented countries on the 2nd Annual REUFIS Meeting, this proposal was accepted and the RED Annex is available for the first time in this e-newsletter. Many experts and network members are already registered in the database, but the Secretariat looking forward to receive more registrations from the REUFIS network and also from other experts involved in invasive forest species. If you didn't submit your registration yet, please take some minutes and register:

<http://www.reufis.org/experts/>

2. Forest invasive species related projects

In this section we highlight projects, which are managed by or connected to the REUFIS members. If you're contributing to international or national projects on forest invasive species, we're gladly include the provided information in the next e-newsletter. Please send suggestions to info@reufis.org

2.1 LIFE ARTEMIS – Awareness raising, training and measures for invasive alien species in forests by Maarten de Groot & Andreja Kavčič

The project LIFE ARTEMIS - Awareness Raising, Training and Measures for Invasive alien Species in forests (LIFE15 GIE/SI/000770) started in 2016. The goal of the project LIFE ARTEMIS is to contribute to the reduction of the harmful impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity by increasing public awareness and by setting up an effective early warning and rapid response framework for invasive alien species in forests.

We prepared the information system “Invazivke” for the collection of data. Courses were given for professionals and volunteers to recognize invasive alien species in forests. As a case study, several potential invasive plant species will be eradicated in the urban forests and the canker of maple, *Eutypella parasitica*, will be mitigated in Slovenia.

For more information, please visit the project's website:

<https://www.tujerodne-vrste.info/en/project-life-artemis/>

2.2 COST Action FP1401- A global network of nurseries as early warning systems against alien tree pests (Global Warning)

The COST Action Global Warning started in 2014 with the aim to create a list of tree species that could be targeted using sentinel nurseries, develop standardised protocols to collect data required for risk assessment and work with NPPOs towards a regulatory basis for the use of data. Altogether 33 countries were participating in the Action including near-neighbour and international partner countries and EPPO.

The last meeting of the Action was held in Sursee, Switzerland, 9-12 October 2018 incorporating a workshop into their program: Sentinel plantings for detecting alien, potentially damaging tree pests: state of the art 2018.

Program and the abstract book of the final meeting can be find at the Action's homepage:

<https://www.ibles.pl/en/web/cost/final-action-meeting>

3. Recent events related to forest invasive species

3.1 EPPO 23rd Meeting of Panel on Quarantine Pests for Forestry

Prague, Czech Republic

2018. May 16-18.

https://www.eppo.int/ABOUT_EPPO/panel_composition/pm_forestry

After the overview of recent EPPO activities on forest invasive species (FIS) a short overview of other organizations' activities were presented including REUFIS Network. The panel representatives presented current and arising issues on various FIS including possible control techniques. Several EPPO standards were discussed in details.

3.2 Side event at the 24th Committee on Forestry

Rome, Italy

2018. July 18-20.

Forest invasive species are non-native pests, pathogens and plants that are introduced either intentionally or unintentionally to an ecosystem, which spread and establish resulting in a significant environmental, economic, and/or socio-cultural impact. FAO is addressing the pressing global issue of invasive species by: producing publications and other knowledge products (e-learning courses); offering assistance to countries both in emergency and after-outbreak situations, as well as in the preparation of long-term prevention strategies; and helping to establish and maintain regional networks dedicated to invasive species.

FAO is currently facilitating five regional forest invasive species networks:

- Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN);

- <https://www.apfisin.net>

- Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS);

- <http://www.reufis.org>

- Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA);

- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fisna/en/>

- Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS);

- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/51295/en/>

- Network for integrated and dynamic forest pest management in the Southern Cone countries

Invasive species have no borders, therefore a strong and more coordinated interaction by affected countries within the same region and among different regional forest invasive species networks is needed to provide timely and efficient

response when new invasive species are introduced and/or detected in a country or region.

Pictures of the event are available in the FAO Forestry Album at the link below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/faoforestry/albums/72157697618545871>

Presentations of the side event:

Overview of current/future activities of Regional Forest Invasive Species Networks By Ferenc Lakatos, Coordinator REUFIS, University of West Hungary, Sopron

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0896EN/ca0896en.pdf>

Using the IPPC framework for the management of forest invasive species

By Brent Larson, IPPC, FAO.

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0897EN/ca0897en.pdf>

Gaps in current international collaboration in managing forest invasive species by Simon Lawson, Coordinator APFISN, University of Sunshine coast, Australia.

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0899EN/ca0899en.pdf>

Why do we need a global approach for managing forest invasive species?

By Brett Hurley, Coordinator FISNA, University of Pretoria.

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0898EN/ca0898en.pdf>

Key message

By Chadi Mohanna, Chair.

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0948EN/ca0948en.pdf>

3.3 EUPHRESO-PREPSYS Conference “Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer”

Vienna, Austria

2018. October 01-04.

<https://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms.web?dok=10361>

Title of the meeting was: Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer, two major tree-killing pests. The Euphresco project organized a conference on how Europe can prepare for potential invasion by these beetles. Apart from several invited keynote speakers, there were a large number of oral presentations covering wide range of forest invasive species (FIS) issues. Colleagues from North America (US and Canada) shared their experience on management and control methods they are using against the beetles.

4. Recent publications of interest

Vettraino A.M., Potting R., Raposo R. (2018): EU Legislation on Forest Plant Health: An Overview with a Focus on *Fusarium circinatum*. Forests 9, 568.

Roe A.D. et al. (2018): Biosurveillance of forest insects: part I – integration and application of genomic tools to the surveillance of non-native forest insects. Journal of Pest Science.

Bilodeau P. et al. (2018): Biosurveillance of forest insects: part II – adoption of genomic tools by end user communities and barriers to integration. Journal of Pest Science.

Meurisse N. et al. (2018): Common pathways by which non-native forest insects move internationally and domestically. Journal of Pest Science

Galko J. et al. (2018): Testing temperature effects on woodboring beetles associated with oak dieback. Biologia 73(4): 361-370.

Tóth V., Lakatos F. (2018): Phylogeographic pattern of the plane leaf miner, *Phyllonorycter platani* (STAUDINGER, 1870) (Lepidoptera, Gracillariidae) in Europe. BMC Evolutionary Biology 18.

Moron D. et al. (2018): Linear and non-linear effects of goldenrod invasion on native pollinator and plant populations. Biological Invasions

Dénes F.V. et al. (2018): Combined impact of multiple non-native mammals on two life stages of a critically endangered Neotropical tree. Biological Invasions.

Dahl F., Ahlen P.-A. (2018): Nest predation by raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* in the archipelago of northern Sweden. Biological Invasions.

Brzezinski M et al. (2018): Expansion and population dynamics of a non-native invasive species: the 40-year history of American mink colonization of Poland. Biological Invasions.

Roques A., Cleary M., Matsiakh I., Eschen R. (eds.) (2017): Field Guide for the Identification of Damage on Woody Sentinel Plants. COST Action (Fp1401) – Global Warning.

CAB International. ISBN-13: 978 1 78639 441 5

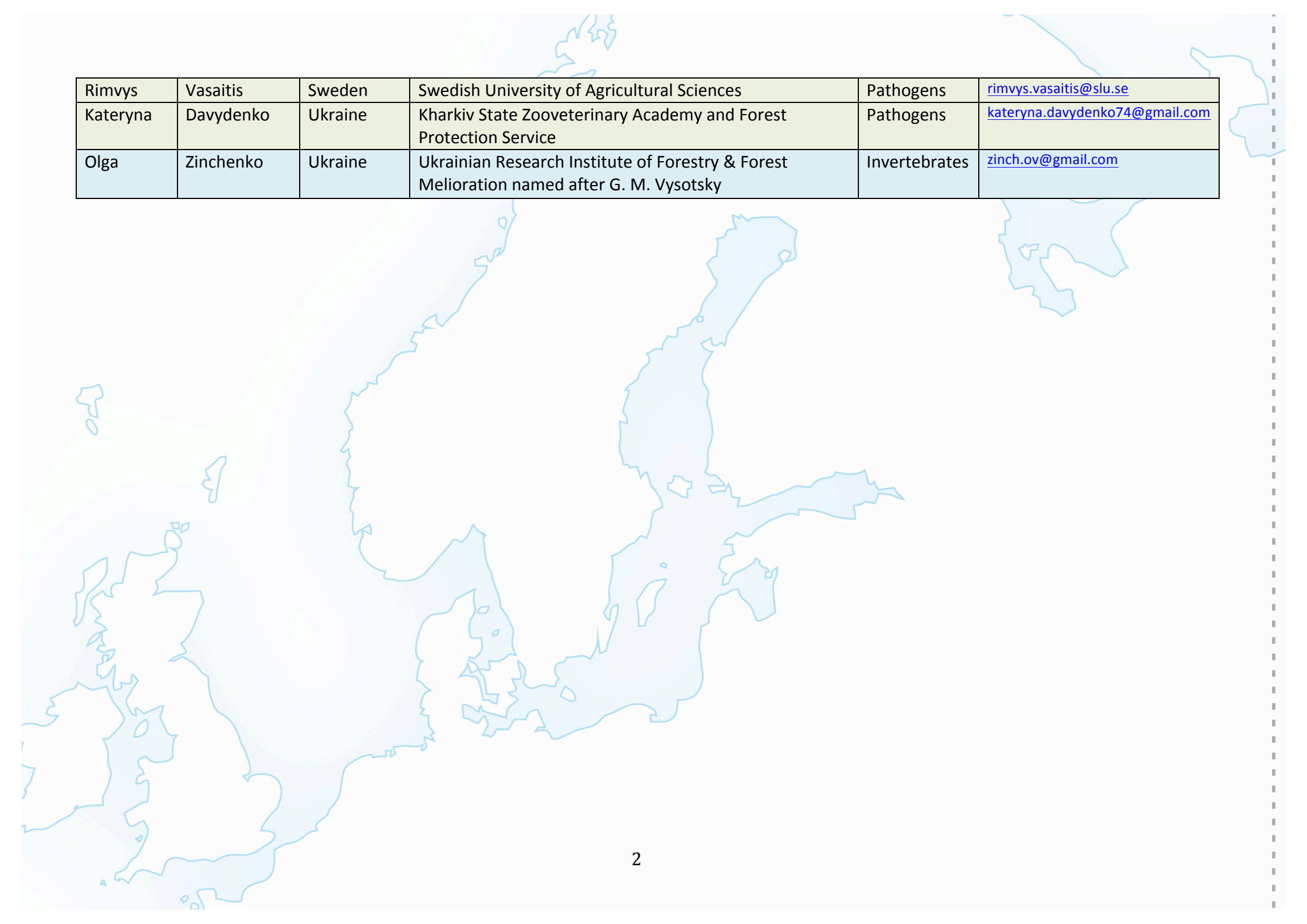
Morin R.S., Liebhold A.M. (2016): Invasive forest defoliator contributes to the impending downward trend of oak dominance in eastern North America. Forestry 89: 284-298.

Ramsfield T.D. et al. (2016): Forest health in a changing world: effects of globalization and climate change on forest insect and pathogen impacts. Forestry 89: 245-252.

Annex – Regional Expert Database (RED, as of 1st November 2018)

Annex 1. REUFIS - Regional Expert Database (RED) as of November 2018

<i>Given name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Specialization</i>	<i>e-mail</i>
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